

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 105133

FOR ROBERT ROSENSTOCK, US LEGAL DIVISION ONLY

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GUATEMALA, MANAGUA,
PANAMA, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA FROM SAN JOSE MAY 06:

QUOTE UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1985

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO DENIES MAKING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN COSTA
RICA

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 1965; (B) 76 SAN JOSE 3355

1. SUMMARY: IN DENYING HAVING MADE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS,
VESCO THREATENS TO DIVULGE NAMES OF COSTA RICANS WHO REQUEST
THEM FROM HIM. T ATTRIOFUTES "THE NEW REPUBLIC" ARTICLE TO
PARTISAN POLITICS, CLAIMS HE IS BEING POLITICALLY PERSECUTED
BECAUSEOF WATERGATE, AND REITERATES THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND
TO BECOME A COSTA RICAN CITIZEN UNTIL THE SITUATION IN THE U.S.
CLARIFIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ROBERT VESCO ISSUED STATEMENT MAY 5 DENYING THAT HE HAS
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MADE "ANY POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY IN
COSTA RICA" AND CHARGING THAT "THE NEW REPUBLIC" INTERVIEW OF
FIGUERES IN WHICH FIGUERES IS SO QUOTED IS PART OF NEW
ANTI-VESCO CAMPAIGN. VESCO NOTED AS WELL THAT IT WOULD BE
UNFORTUNATE IF "MERE NEWS REPORTS WERE USED AS PROOFS
RESULTING IN THE LOSS OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND AVOIDING
THE OBJECTIVE JUDICIAL PROCESSES FOR WHICH DEMOCRATIC COSTA

RICA IS KNOWN ALL OVER THE WORLD."

3. IN HIS RAMBLING SELF DEFENSE VESCO ATTRIBUTES THE ARTICLE TO "PARTISAN POLITICAL INTEREST." HE DISMISSES "NEW REPUBLIC" POLITICAL EDITOR KEN BODE'S FIGUERES' QUOTES AS "WORTHLESS AND LACKING SERIOUSNESS" BECAUSE THE AUTHOR STATES AT THE OUTSET OF HIS PIECE THAT THE SUCCEEDING PARAGRAPHS ARE DISTILLED FROM TAPES AND NOTES. THIS, VESCO REASONS, "IS A CLEAR ADMISSION THAT THE ARTICLE REPRESENTS THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE AUTHOR AND NOT NECESSARILY THE EXACT WORDS AS STATED." HE ADDS THAT FIGUERES CONFIRMED TO HIM THAT VERY DAY THAT THE CONTENTS OF A FIGUERES LETTER TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL (OQE) IN JULY, 1976, ON THE SUBJECT OF VESCO POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS STILL HOLDS, I.E. THAT FIGUERES "DIDNT REALLY THINK THAT VESCO HAD FINANCED ANY POLITICAL PARTY IN COSTA RICA." (AT THAT TIME FIGUERES TOLD THE TSE THAT A SIMILAR STATEMENT ABOUT VESCO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS WAS MADE IN JEST - REF B.)

4. VESCO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REVIVE HIS CHARGES OF U.S. "POLITICAL PERSECUTION" OVER WATERGATE AND TO LASH OUT AT PAST STATEMENTS OF PREVIOUS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO COSTA RICA ON VESCO MATTER.

5. VESCO ALSO TOOK ISSUE WITH THE WAY "NEW REPUBLIC" ARTICLE REPORTED FIGUERES' DESCRIPTION OF HIS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES WITH VESCO; HE DENIED HE HAS "BUSINESS" WITH FIGUERES, ADMITTING ONLY TO HAVING INVESTED TWO MILLION DOLLARS IN FIGUERES' PREFABRICATED HOUSING VENTURE.

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6. VESCO PROTESTED THAT HE HAS ALWAYS CONDUCTED HIMSELF IN COSTA RICAN ACCORDING TO THE LAW. HE NOTED THAT IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT WITH ALL HIS WATERGATE-RELATED PROBLEMS OVER A SUPPOSED POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE NIXON CAMPAIGN THAT HE WOULD DO NOTHING TO HAVE A POLITICAL SCANDAL OF THIS NATURE RECUR. HE ALSO THREATENED THAT "HE HAS THE INTENTION OF DIVULGING PUBLICLY THE NAME OF ANYBODY WHO ASKS ME FOR A POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ELECTION," AND SAID HE WOULD WELCOME PUBLICATION OF LISTS OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTORS TO PROVE THAT HE IS NOT ONE OF THEM.

7. ONCE AGAIN, VESCO TALKED OF HIS AND HIS FAMILY'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN COSTA RICA TO "THE POOR, THE SICK, AND THE NEEDY COMMUNITIES."

8. VESCO'S STATEMENT ENDED WITH A REITERATION OF HIS PREVIOUSLY STATED INTENT (SAN JOSE 739) NOT TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN COSTA RICAN CITIZENSHIP THIS YEAR "UNTIL THE SITUATION IN THE U.S. CLARIFIES EVEN MORE TO PROVE THE FALSITY OF THE PUBLICITY

CAMPAIGNS WHICH DECEIVE THE PUBLIC BY ALLEGING THAT I AM GUILTY
OF A CRIME AND CAME TO COSTA RICA TO AVOID JUSTICE." KILDAY
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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